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Author rights vs self-archiving in Spanish scientific journals

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Abstract

The paper analyzes publishers' copyright policies and self-archiving conditions of Spanish scientific journals. Data are extracted from the directory DULCINEA that contains information of 1318 Spanish journals, of which 775 (61%) allow some form of self-archiving to be about 60% of the post-print version and allowing them 87% of the deposit of the version of record. In 72% of journals the deposit can be performed immediately after publication and in 16% after article acceptance. 72% of the journals are freely available without charge to the user this figure raises up to 86% if free access after an embargo is considered. Only 18% of the journals use Creative Commons licenses. The adoption of different open access journals model in Spain is favorable, however there is still a high percentage of journals (39%) that do not provide any information about authors and publishers rights and that difficult or inhibits reuse of published articles.

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1. Introduction

Depositing scholarly outputs in institutional repositories is one way to achieve open access to scientific literature (green route). Copyright holders play a key role by allowing their publications to be archived in subject or institutional repositories. Institutions, publishers and authors should know and define clear policies for the dissemination, copyright and use, respectively of their outputs and 'products'. By removing total or partial

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copyright barriers, self-archiving might be a potentially feasible and affordable way to permit a universal open access to science.

SHERPA/ROMEO is a service for academic authors and repository managers that summarises publishers' general policies on self-archiving of journal articles. There is still a long way from listing all existing journals, specially those published in other languages. This has motivated the development of initiatives to cover this information at national level. For instance, that conducted by the DINI (German Initiative for Networks Information) to integrate their journals on SHERPA/ROMEO (Scholce, 2008), the creation of the OAK List by the Queensland University of Technology in Australia, which includes Information about small Australian publishers and journals that are not listed in SHERPA/ROMEO, and also all the Australian journals included the SHERPA List (Fitzgerald *et al*, 2006). The directory BLIMUNDA, which collects information on Portuguese journals and editorials to be integrated in the Portuguese translation of SHERPA/ROMEO or the portal HELOISE that collects information from for French journals. In Spain this task is fulfilled by the DULCINEA directory, created in 2007 by the research group “Acceso abierto a la ciencia” (Abad *et al*, 2008).

This research focus on to two main goals:

- a) To describe the situation of publisher copyright policies and self-archiving conditions of Spanish scientific journals.
- b) To analyze how these policies can affect the re-use of papers and their deposit in subject or institutional repositories.

2. Methods

Data has been obtained from the DULCINEA directory which includes information about active Spanish academic journals. DULCINEA follows the colors taxonomy of SHERPA/ROMEO.

DULCINEA obtains the information about journals from their portals and by contacting editors either by email, telephone or online surveys. Journal titles were extracted from different directories (Ulrich's periodicals directory and also some Spanish journals directories).

Currently, DULCINEA contains information about 1318 Spanish academic journals. The data collected from each journal are:

- a) Bibliographic data (title, ISSN, publisher name, URL).
- b) Type of access through Internet (free, free after an embargo or restricted to subscribers) and copyright policies.
- c) Information about self-archiving conditions, if any, to deposit the articles in digital archives.
- d) Classification of the journals according SHERPA/ROMEO colours taxonomy for policy archiving (green, blue, yellow or white).

3. Results

Most Spanish scientific journals 634 (48%) are published by universities or research centers, 325 (22%) by for scientific or learned societies and only 271 (21%) by commercial publishers, the rest are published by different agencies. Subject classification of journals is: Social Sciences (45%), Health Sciences (25%) and Humanities (16%). The remaining 12% corresponds to journals from other areas of knowledge. According to the

kind of access 947 (72%) are freely available, 173 (13%) are free after an embargo and only 184 (14%) are restricted to subscribers.

Nearly 61% of the journals provide information about copyright terms and conditions, however in a high percentage (39%) this information is not mentioned but of these in 169 journals the information has been obtained by contacting the editors.

Of the 1318 journals 780 (60%) allow some form of self-archiving, 201 (15%) did not permit it and in 337 journal titles (26%) no information was available.

Depending on the manuscript version the 58% of the journals allow self-archiving of post-print (version of record) (48% blue, green 12%) (Table 1)

Table 1. Spanish journals by ROMEO colours

| Colour | Journals | % |
|----------------|----------|-----|
| Green | 145 | 12 |
| Blue | 629 | 48 |
| Yellow | 7 | 0.5 |
| White | 204 | 15 |
| No information | 337 | 26 |
| Total | 1318 | |

85% of journals that allow self-archiving permit the use of version of record to deposit either in institutional repositories, subject repositories or personal web pages.

Depending on the time of deposit 79% of journals allow deposit immediately upon publication, permitting 16% upon acceptance and only 5% requires a period of embargo.

When the publisher is a university or research organization, permission to self-archiving of post-print version is about 70%, while the journals published by scientific societies is 46% and commercial publishers 51%.

Permission to self-archive post-print version is more common in the journals of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, followed by Humanities and Social Sciences, while it is lower in the Health Sciences and in Plastic & Scenic Arts (Table 2).

Table 2. Post-print self-archiving by subject area of Spanish journals

| Area | Green | Blue | % Postprint | Journals |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------------|----------|
| Social Sciences | 35 | 322 | 63 | 598 |
| Health Sciences | 74 | 78 | 45 | 336 |
| Humanities | 18 | 120 | 67 | 207 |
| Live Sciences | 2 | 34 | 62 | 58 |
| Engineering | 4 | 27 | 62 | 50 |
| Experimental Sciences | 1 | 17 | 64 | 28 |
| Mathematics and Physical Sciences | 7 | 11 | 67 | 27 |
| Plastic & Scenic Arts | 1 | 5 | 43 | 14 |
| Total | 142 | 614 | 59 | 1318 |

Only 238 (18%) journals use Creative Commons licences.

4. Conclusions

A high percentage of the journals (39%) do not provide any information about copyright terms and re-use conditions. This lack of information shows that editors practices are not participant of the current open access framework in which policies in favor of open access require the deposit of published articles.

When information about author's rights is available, the conditions of self-archiving of the Spanish journals are quite favorable to open access: 59% of journals allow some kind of deposit, within these, 69% permit the post-print version, mostly the version of record (87%).

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